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DRAFT Minutes 09/09/2009

ARLINGTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

September 9, 2009

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In attendance: Jane Auger, Joey Glushko, Elizabeth Karpati, Ann LeRoy, David White

The **minutes** of the July 15 meeting were approved with minor corrections.

Updates:

- Mill Brook: The next meeting is scheduled for September 17. The grant application to NPS has been submitted and acknowledged.
- The Town web page had April 1 as the date for all Open Space minutes. Joey corrected it.
- The Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows are considering how to raise funds for the meadow restoration project.
- There is nothing new to report about any of the management plans.
- The sale of Busa Farm should be finalized about mid-September. Some of the buildings are to be torn down – one shed visible from near the Reservoir path appears to be gone already.

Plans for Town Day, September 26:

- Ann has reserved a table.
- Displays: Large mounted map showing open spaces in green. Joey can also create a map of aerial views of Mill Brook. Open Space Plan. First draft of Mill Brook plan if possible.
- Handouts: Page-size map of open spaces. Last year's postcard announcing Open Space Plan. Flyer about some of the worst invasive plants.

New Business:

- The Historical Society will present a lecture on the mill ponds along Mill Brook at the Smith Museum on November 24.
- A project to control phragmites on Spy Pond is imminent. Phragmites grows both in the water, i.e. on public property, and on land along the shore, which is mostly private property. The Town will undertake the first phase of the project, having the phragmites in the water sprayed with an herbicide which will be sucked down into the roots as the plant pulls back nutrients from its stems in the fall. Dead stems above the water can be removed in the winter when the pond is frozen. Abutters are being asked to contribute to the cost of this first phase. Additional spraying will be required for the next year or more, then planting of desirable vegetation on any cleared land to avoid an invitation to invasive species to colonize empty spaces. A qualified botanist will have to be employed to make sure the few stands of the endangered Engelmann's umbrella sedge which were found around the pond don't get sprayed.
- Last spring Jane suggested a campaign against garlic mustard, but it was already in full bloom by then. A campaign in 2010 would be worth while if we can get started early enough on organizing it.

Respectfully submitted,
 Elizabeth Karpati